

**Focus Group Report to: The Faith Foster Families Network (3FN)  
February 2021**

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## Executive Summary

Foster care is a service of child welfare. It is a temporary arrangement in which adults provide for the care of a child or children whose birth parent is unable to care for them. These adults are licensed as foster parents. They go through a rigorous background check and receive training.

Families become involved with the child welfare system due to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. If the abuse or neglect is confirmed, the child may be removed from their home temporarily. The removal means the child is in foster care. The goal is for the parent to get assistance so their child can return home. Importantly, child welfare systems want children to stay with their parents. If that is not possible, they want them to stay with their own relatives. If that is not possible, then child welfare looks for foster parents, those with no relationship or tie to the child or youth.

Across the country, there is a shortage of traditional foster parents. Media and news outlets report this shortage, and state child welfare systems across the country often have dedicated staff and strategies to recruit foster parents. Strongly related to this shortage is the use of kinship care as an alternative to traditional foster care. Many children live with relatives; however, systems are designed to place children in the care of strangers and are challenged when using relatives, despite the fact that child welfare law and policy prioritize placing children with relatives or people close to them—people they know. The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 recognizes the essential role relatives play in the lives of children. The law encourages states to link foster children with relatives before strangers. This is kinship care.

In the U.S., children of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. This is true in Los Angeles, as well. If child welfare practice was both culturally and racially responsive, the data would be different. [Although children of color constitute only 15% of the population, they count for 35% of the children in child welfare.](#) Thus, simply “recruiting” foster parents in communities of color is not easy. Policy actions to reduce racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare are only achieved when demonstrated in practice, and the data shows that it is not.

Kinship care is critically important as a culturally and racially competent practice; it’s the best way to preservice a child’s cultural identity and keep them connected to their own community. In those instances where a kinship placement cannot be utilized immediately, maintaining the child’s cultural identity and community connection remains a critical issue, and thus, it is best when traditional foster parents come from the communities where children live instead of moving them outside their communities, where maintaining cultural identity can be harshly challenged.

In February 2018, a collaborative of six faith-based organizations and churches in south Los Angeles began working to create a foster care ministry called the Faith Foster Families Network (3FN). The vision of 3FN materialized in June 2017, when a group of ministries and faith-based organizations, in partnership with the Center for Strategic

Partnerships and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), hosted a “Fostering Home” event in south L.A. aimed at recruiting resource families. Here, faith leaders were enlightened about the crisis facing foster families and children in their community and wanted to go beyond a single recruitment event. Their vision was to build a network of support, uniting all their congregations in an effort to better support the children and families they serve.

3FN found it essential to inform their efforts by listening to the community where they work. As part of a strategic plan to build capacity, 3FN sought these conversations to ensure it was an inclusive process with the communities they serve. Community perspective is essential in building the programming needed to support children and families in the community who may need support in the foster care system. 3FN essentially wanted the community to advise them on their work of recruiting foster parents, working with foster and kinship families and how they work with DCFS.

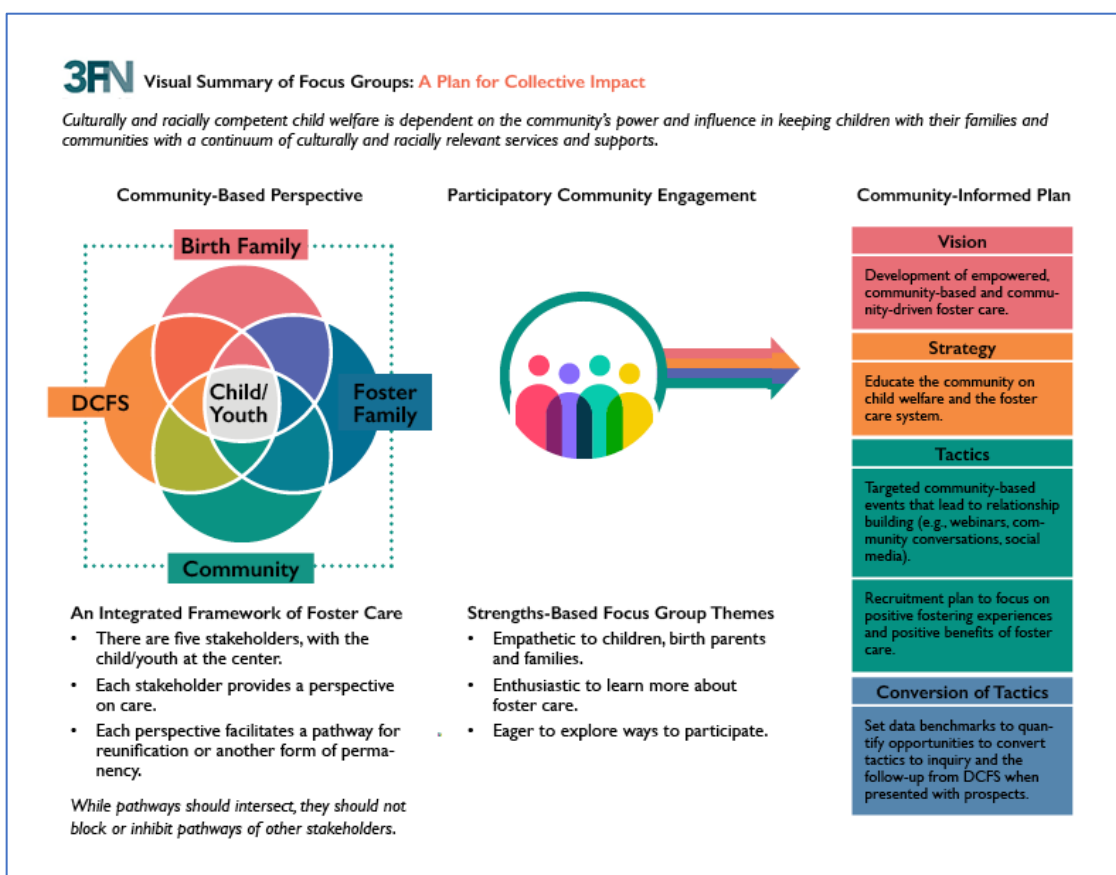
3FN contracted with A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI) to acquire this community insight. Utilizing virtual focus groups, ASCI worked to provide a point-in-time perspective on the recruitment and retainment of foster care/resource parents in SPA 6 of Los Angeles County and the northern region of SPA 8 for 3FN (fiscally sponsored by Community Partners). This focus group report provides stakeholder insight into the community’s perceptions of traditional foster care and relative/kinship care amid current social influences.

### **Key Findings**

- Background knowledge on child welfare in general was either limited or misinformed.
- Background on both foster and kinship care was also generalized, unless the participant had a personal experience with DCFS for foster care.
- While no direct questions were asked that considered race, most conversations at one point reference back to issues of racism, race equity and inclusion.
- While other systems were not referenced in questions, participants frequently commented on how other systems, such as education, criminal justice and health care, play a part in child welfare placement.
- There was a strong association between kinship care (mostly informal) and African American culture. Discussion did not include a comparison between traditional foster care and kinship care or whether one was better than the other.
- There was some discussion of the foster care system, but importantly, many times it was placed in a larger social context. Participants maintained that there is a strong connection between racial and social constructs and negative impacts on families and children coming to the attention of child welfare.
- Most comments were not negative or punitive concerning the children and families involved with child welfare; rather, they were sympathetic and empathetic in nature, once again providing context through system bias regarding race, culture and income.

- The focus groups themselves were educational in nature. Many participants acknowledged they had not known much about child welfare and felt more informed after participating in the focus groups.
- In regard to offering recruiting strategies, the majority of the conversation focused on the need to educate the community first. In other words, you cannot recruit people for something they do not know about or understand.
- There was more concrete discussion on how to retain foster parents (better training, supports, communication) rather than how or who to recruit.
- Participants discussed their meaning of “community”—whether it is a physical and/or cultural presence.

## Visual Summary of Focus Groups



The central tenet of the visual diagram is to communicate the collective impact potential the focus group experience yielded. It is guided by illustrating the essential role the community assumes in the provision of culturally and racially competent services. The visual is organized into three areas: perspective, engagement and plan.

- Perspective illustrates the integration of stakeholders so that community-driven child welfare is not constructed to place all power and authority with the child welfare agency.

- Engagement illustrates when the community voice is participatory and particular. It illustrates that the community is not a single entity, but several intersecting entities with particular wants and needs.
- Plan illustrates a strategic approach to operationalizing the community: participatory approach to a collective impact approach.

## Focus Group Questions

The questions were sequenced as follows:

1. **Engagement questions:** Introduce the participants to the topic or subject and get them comfortable with the discussion. *Example: What is your favorite type of exercise?*
2. **Exploration questions:** Designed to get to the heart of the discussion and typically open-ended. *Examples: What are the pros and cons of exercise? How do you feel about yourself when you exercise? How do you feel when you don't?*
3. **Exit questions:** Designed to see if any angle was missed during the discussion. *Example: Is there anything else you would like to say about why you do or do not exercise on a regular basis?*

ASCI worked with 3FN to develop questions to provide insight into the recruitment and retention of foster parents. The following questions were utilized:

### Engagement Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “foster child (care)?”
  - a. What do you think of the people who provide foster care?
  - b. What do you think of the families needing foster care?

### Exploration Questions

2. The general public often has a negative perception of foster parenting, which is a significant barrier to recruiting foster parents. Why do you believe this is true or not true?
  - a. Follow-up: Do you think this is true for your community?
3. Did you know that people can foster their own relatives? What are your opinions on this? Did you know this?
  - a. Follow-up: If your niece/nephew needed to be fostered, would you consider this?

### Exit Question

4. Is there anything we did not speak to that you would like us to know?

## Selection of Participants



The common (and simplest) method for selecting participants for community focus groups is called "purposive" or "convenience" sampling. This means that 3FN selected those members of the community who they thought would provide the best information. It is also important to note that people are more likely to participate and show up if someone they know invites them. A

nomination process was used to recruit participants. Each church provided 3FN with names/contacts.

## Saturation Levels of Participants

Identifying stakeholder groups and then determining the number of focus groups needed is central to a qualitative study. Obtaining appropriate sample sizes for qualitative reporting can prove challenging. The goal is for the sample size to yield rich information for the topic being studied. Thus, we must consider whether or not the sample is adequate to provide a breadth and depth that facilitates understanding on the topic being explored.

Saturation levels in focus groups mean enough interviews/discussions were conducted to identify themes (i.e., code saturation), as well as to interpret and understand the themes (i.e., meaning saturation).

Particular to this engagement:

- All groups included enough participants to yield diversity in information provided.
- The focus groups shared the demographic of being nominated to participate by their churches.
- All participants were African American. The diversity of groups was in age, community, gender, employment, foster care alumni and foster care experience.
  - Participants did not typically share a common trait or experience that would have identified a focus group by one demographic.
    - Example: Some groups included former foster youth, so the responses were from a different perspective than those with no knowledge of the system. This was also true when there were current or former foster parents and those who work for a child welfare agency or department.

## Information (Qualitative Data) Context:

- Intensity (the passion and/or force behind the comment):
  - Tone in the conversation tended to be reflective of three connections to foster care: pity, sympathy and empathy.
    - In recognized spectrums of empathy, pity is regarded as feeling "sorry" for you, sympathy as feeling "for you" and empathy as feeling "with you."

- Where it is noted as an “unconstructive reference,” although the words themselves can be perceived as negative, the delivery was typically sympathetic in tone.
  - The most empathetic responses came from those who had experience with foster care or had a secondary connection.
  - Regarding emotions, there was a sincerity noted in all conversations and a distinct interest in exploring the topics in more depth.
- Frequency of assertions (consideration of how things are characterized in a certain way):
  - Foster care was frequently discussed in the context of societal issues such as race, availability of resources, poverty and accessibility.
  - Although no specific race question was included, implications of racism in foster care did frequently enter the conversation. More often than not, when one participant referenced race, others added to the conversation or were in agreement.
  - Families were not described negatively; more frequently, the conditions that may have brought a family into the system were mentioned.
  - Other than the first question, foster care was spoken about more often as it relates to people, as opposed to its functionality in the child welfare system.
  - There was limited conversation around participants’ “own stories.” When personal accounts were provided, it was from those who had been foster or kinship parents or were alumni of the system.

### Types of Analysis:

There were two types of analysis used:

- **Classical content analysis:** Looks at the presence of particular words, phrases, themes and/or concepts. Through this we can quantify and analyze the presence, meaning and relationships of certain words, phrases and concepts.
- **Discourse analysis:** Looks beyond the surface meaning of words in order to place them in a social context, recognizing that language is not only a neutral conveyor of information, but also a social action, and that to understand verbal responses, an awareness of many social factors is necessary. This is part of constructing the reality through the conversation.

### Data Tables:

The tables below are constructed from both a designation and attribution analysis. Designation addresses the frequency at which certain objects, persons, institutions and/or concepts were mentioned. This was integrated with an attribution analysis in which the frequency of characterizations or descriptors were used.



Example:

- Reference to a “lack of resources” addresses objects, so it is a designation.
- The comment “foster parents are in it for the money” is an attribution, because it offers a characterization.

Important to note when considering the information in the tables:

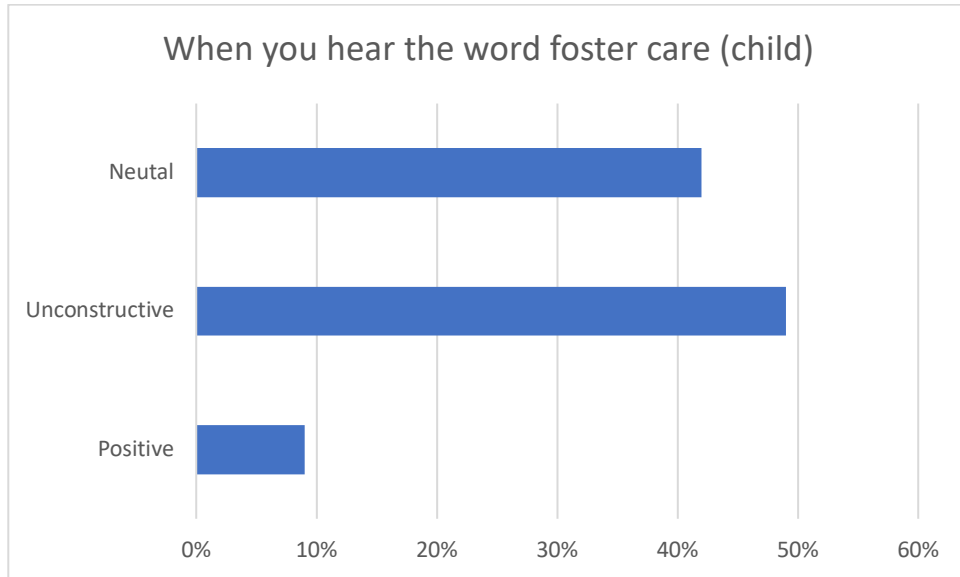
- We are providing percentages; however, numbers can be misleading, thus, we also provide the descriptors: no one, a few, some, many, most or all.
- The term “unconstructive” was used as the opposite to “positive” as opposed to using “negative,” as these comments were most often delivered from a sympathetic and not antagonistic perspective.
- Below each table is a prevalent theme assigned due to frequency as a designation or attribution.

To be considered:

1. Initial categorizations were shaped by pre-established questions; thus, the qualitative analyst was open to drawing new meanings from the data available.
2. This report collected quantitative data to reflect different stakeholder voices. There was no weight assigned, as the data was not categorized by voice (position), knowledge or experience. Instead, this approach relies on the comprehensive integration of voices. Precautions were taken to ensure objective results.

**Question 1: What do you think of when you hear the word “foster care (child)?”**

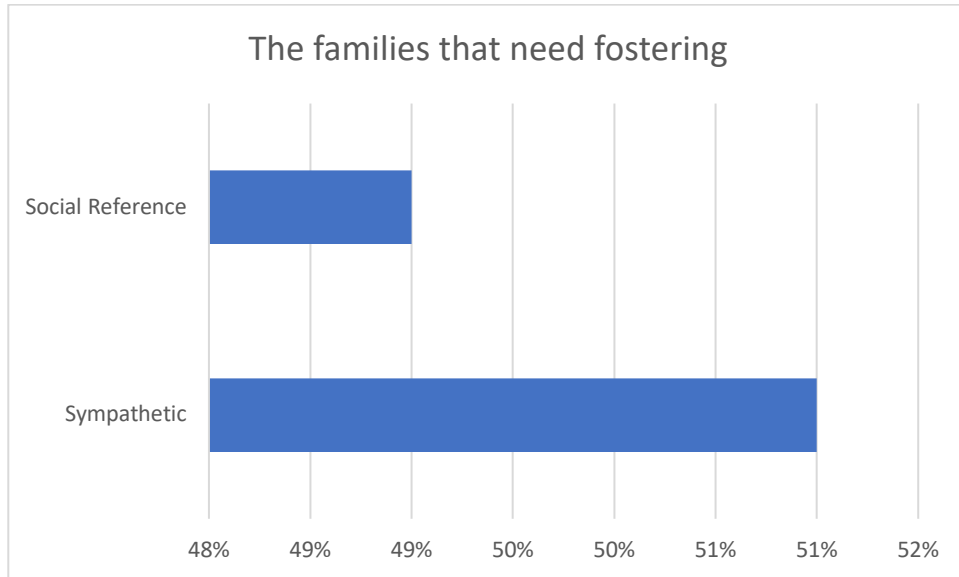
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Interpret as Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>People who have love to share</i></li> <li>• <i>People who are very responsible and have love</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                        | <b>9%</b><br><b>(a few)</b> |
| Unconstructive Reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A dysfunctional family – major family problems</i></li> <li>• <i>They are in it for the money</i></li> <li>• <i>Ascends my heart, children uncared for</i></li> <li>• <i>The cruelty of the world</i></li> </ul> | <b>49%</b><br><b>(many)</b> |
| Neutral – Functional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A surrogate home</i></li> <li>• <i>Provides support to a family</i></li> <li>• <i>A family in the system</i></li> <li>• <i>There is a concern for child safety</i></li> </ul>                                        | <b>42%</b><br><b>(many)</b> |



**Prevalent theme of separation:** surrogate, living with others, brokenness, parentless, removal, no longer with biological parents, unhoused, temporary, child not at home, disconnected.

**Question 1A: What do you think of those families needing foster care?**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Sympathetic to Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>They are vulnerable.</i></li> <li>• <i>They are at risk.</i></li> <li>• <i>It is a painful situation for them.</i></li> <li>• <i>They need supports without judgement.</i></li> <li>• <i>They need support without surveillance.</i></li> <li>• <i>There is trauma, and we leave scars.</i></li> <li>• <i>It is not just the child; it is the entire family.</i></li> <li>• <i>Many times, it is just a hard time for families.</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>51%</b><br/><b>(many)</b></p> |
| <p>Comment on the System, Social Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>They have a lack of resources in the community.</i></li> <li>• <i>Child protection is too tied to child welfare.</i></li> <li>• <i>Community trauma must also be considered.</i></li> <li>• <i>There is no village to help them through.</i></li> <li>• <i>Criminal justice is too intertwined with foster care.</i></li> <li>• <i>The system is set up support families, but it doesn't function like that.</i></li> </ul>    | <p><b>49%</b><br/><b>(many)</b></p> |

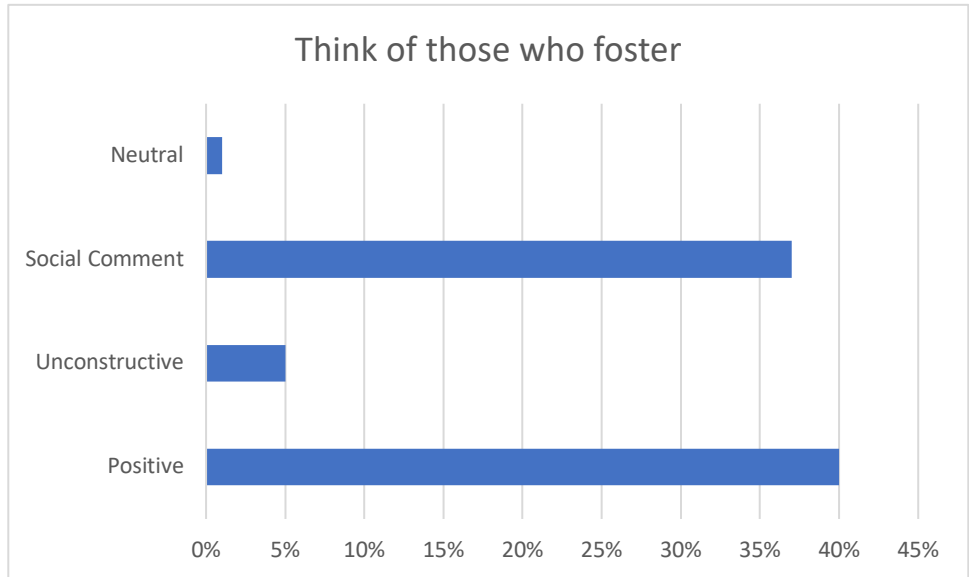


**Prevalent theme of emotions:** sad, caring, love, loneliness, cruelty, tragic.

**Question 1B: What do you think of those who foster?**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Positive Perception</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>They are saviors.</i></li> <li>• <i>They are noble people.</i></li> <li>• <i>We must remain empathetic toward families.</i></li> <li>• <i>It is an act of pure love.</i></li> <li>• <i>God bless them.</i></li> </ul> | <b>40%</b><br><b>(many)</b>    |
| <b>Unconstructive Perception</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>They can be worse than their own homes.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>5%</b><br><b>(very few)</b> |
| <b>Money</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>17%</b><br><b>(a few)</b>   |
| <b>Money – Good</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>It is a type of support.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>They need financial support to do this.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                            | <b>21%</b>                     |
| <b>Money – Bad</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>They are in it for the money.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>It is a paying job for many.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Someone looking for a check.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                    | <b>65%</b>                     |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p><i>Money – Neutral</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This is dual; some are not, some are.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>14%</b>               |
| <p>Comment on the System, Social Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Society is judging them.</i></li> <li>• <i>Vulnerable families.</i></li> <li>• <i>They have suffered racism.</i></li> <li>• <i>They have a social stigma.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proper training and education is needed.</i></li> <li>• <i>They must be the right fit for the child.</i></li> </ul> | <b>37%<br/>(some)</b>    |
| <p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I have no knowledge on this.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>1%<br/>(very few)</b> |



**Prevalent theme of positive emotions:** noble, caring, loving, hero, big-hearted, generous, savior, courageous, advocate, healing, strong.

**Question 2: The general public often has a negative perception of foster parenting, which is a significant barrier to recruiting foster parents. Why do you believe this is true or not true?**

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Role of the Foster Parent | <b>4%<br/>(very few)</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

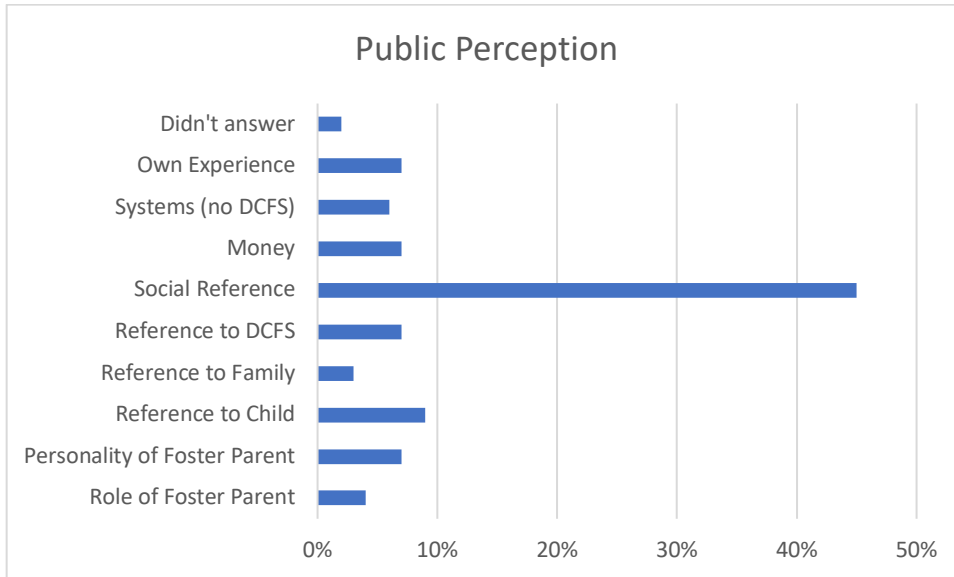
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They are surrogates.</i></li> <li>○ <i>People are in awe of foster parents.</i></li> <li>○ <i>They are blessed.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25%              |
| <p>Unconstructive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They want to rescue us.</i></li> <li>○ <i>They are in it for the money.</i></li> <li>○ <i>It's a job.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 75%              |
| <p>Personality of Foster Parent</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7%<br>(very few) |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They are brave.</i></li> <li>○ <i>It's admirable to take children in.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 43%              |
| <p>Unconstructive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Can they really give the same type of love you give your own child?</i></li> <li>○ <i>Do it for the money.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The motivation is money.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 57%              |
| <p>Reference to Child/Youth</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9%<br>(very few) |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 0%               |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They are coming in with something disturbing.</i></li> <li>○ <i>If they were molested, you will be molested.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Children in foster care are thought of as difficult, which makes it hard for people to want to step in – there are concerns about their behavior.</i></li> <li>○ <i>You are without parents – a lot of negatives that follow you through life.</i></li> </ul> | 100%             |
| <p>Reference to Family</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 3%<br>(very few) |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 0%               |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Birth family can get in the way.</i></li> <li>○ <i>We think it's the child's fault that the family is in the system.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The negative perceptions of being foster parents comes with the negative perception of the kids in care – there is something wrong with the child.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I think of smaller babies and drug moms. What will this child take you through? You don't know where it will lead.</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>100%</b></p>                     |
| <p>Reference to DCFS</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>7%</b><br/><b>(very few)</b></p> |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Lots of DCFS workers do their jobs well; it's not the whole system that is negative.</i></li> <li>○ <i>You can get you through the RFA process with their help.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I respect their process, but things need to change because foster children are the most vulnerable children in the country.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | <p><b>29%</b></p>                      |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They create a negative experience.</i></li> <li>○ <i>They rip apart families.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Their process is prejudiced for (birth) parents.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>71%</b></p>                      |
| <p>Speaking to Process of Becoming Foster Parent (as difficult)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>It requires too many classes – people can't even consider it.</i></li> <li>● <i>People don't want the scrutiny.</i></li> <li>● <i>All the court dates and everything that comes with it is a hinderance for a working family.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>10%</b></p>                      |
| <p>Community and/or Social Reference</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>45% (many)</b></p>               |
| <p><i>Media</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They create false narratives.</i></li> <li>○ <i>They only share the negative.</i></li> <li>○ <i>It's true, because the only exposure I have is a TV show where the children are always troubled.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>46%</b></p>                      |
| <p><i>Lack of Knowledge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>We don't talk about foster care enough in the community.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Public doesn't know unless they experience it themselves.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>26%</b></p>                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Only know what we hear on the news, which is usually negative.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| <p><i>Mental Health/Trauma</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Mental health of caregiver must always be considered</i></li> <li>○ <i>There is also an affiliation with trauma</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7%               |
| <p><i>Spiritual</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>These people are blessed.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2%               |
| <p>Money Reference</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7%               |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>People should be compensated if they do it with passion – passion plays the part – it can't be about the paycheck even for judges and schools.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>If someone has a foster child and takes the money, we make assumptions – we don't make assumptions with other things like childcare and education.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>People are not gold diggers (in foster care).</i></li> </ul>                                                                           | 40%              |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>There is an assumption people go into it for the money.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>People do it to get money. People shouldn't get the money unless they do it for a year. Some people do it for a couple of months just to get the money. If you don't finish you should have to pay the state back.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>If a waiter only wants the paycheck, then my experience is that he won't be a good waiter. (comparing to foster parents getting a check)</i></li> </ul> | 60%              |
| <p>Racial Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>I associate it with Black and minority children.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The word goes out that Black children have the most problems.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 5%               |
| <p>Community in General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Who do we define as the community?</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 7%               |
| <p>Systems (no mention of DCFS)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 6%<br>(very few) |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7%               |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>I am grateful for child welfare; it is why I have my (foster) son. Where would he be if not for the child welfare system?</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                        |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The system is flawed – it’s flawed police – things bleed into the police system.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The system is so big, it’s getting in its own way.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Systems are overwhelming, especially to Black families.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Even when motivated by the money, people don’t want the intrusion.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The system judges a family in crisis.</i></li> <li>○ <i>The system makes children forget that they are children.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I knew a family and all 7 siblings were separated from each other – there are cycles of children staying in the system (that the system creates).</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>93%</b></p>                      |
| <p>Own Experiences</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>7%</b><br/><b>(very few)</b></p> |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The child had to go to therapy – you have to act like it’s your child – but it’s rewarding to see the healing side.</i></li> <li>○ <i>My father was in care and the experience was good, but it was kinship care.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I have seen people fostered and the motivation is money – I work for a nonprofit, but I am grateful children have a place to go.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>71%</b></p>                      |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Even growing up I didn’t know much about kids in foster care; foster care was another form of welfare, so it was very taboo, unless you wanted to take advantage of the government.</i></li> <li>○ <i>In high school my mom helped out, as a child we were against it because of the stigma; I did have 2 adopted cousins.</i></li> <li>○ <i>20 years ago, I worked for a day care for developmentally delayed children – it was a stark reality; I saw kids in the same clothes every day.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I had friends go through it (RFA), and it was terrible.</i></li> </ul>                                                       | <p><b>29%</b></p>                      |
| <p>Did Not Answer Question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Young people are not going to church.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>2%</b></p>                       |





**Prevalent theme (1) of media:** negative focus, positive, negative highlighting, news only reports negative, false narratives, only hear negative, better media needed.

**Prevalent theme (2) of people:** it's admirable, they take on the issues of others, it's a lot to take on, people with both heart and mind, brave, a big responsibility, they don't know what they are getting into.

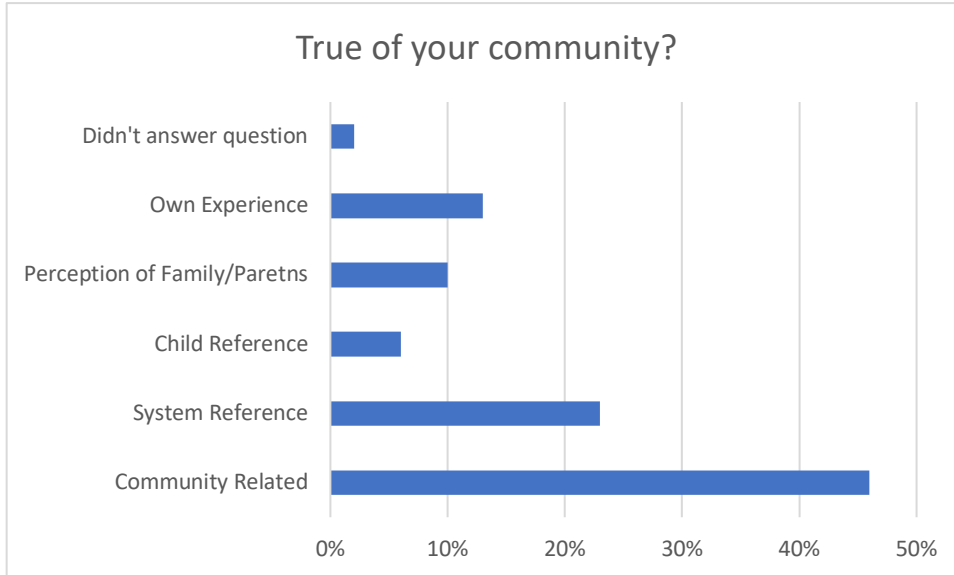
**Follow-up: Do you think this is true for your community?**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Community Related                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>46%<br/>(many)</b> |
| <p><i>As a support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>It takes a village.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>We are struggling to raise our own kids; how do we take on more?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Without seeing our neighbors, we just don't know.</i></li> </ul> | <b>19%</b>            |
| <i>Awareness level</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>25%</b>            |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The community just isn't aware; education is needed.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>We are already taking care of our kids.</i></li> </ul>                                                                 | <b>14%</b>            |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>I had no idea families went through this.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Their experiences are terrible, and this comes into your home.</i></li> </ul>                                               | <b>86%</b>            |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>People are involved with their community, but the community is changing (racial make-up).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>We don't know the history of child welfare and its negative affect on our community.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              |                       |
| <p><i>Definition of Community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Trying to process – what community are we talking about?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Can you define community?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>There are a lot of communities.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Mine or the Black community?</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | <b>19%</b>            |
| <p><i>Race and Culture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Gentrification is changing our community.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>White families go to adoption, black and brown people get stuck.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>People don't know about the relationship between child welfare and movements like "Black Lives Matter" and other anti-racism programs.</i></li> </ul>                                          | <b>31%</b>            |
| <p><i>Negative Media</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Neighborhoods only get negative press for everything</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>6%</b>             |
| System Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>23%<br/>(some)</b> |
| DCFS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>6%</b>             |
| <p><i>Positive comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>They are overwhelmed, doing what they can.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>There are still good workers, there will always be good and bad.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>25%</b>            |
| <p><i>Unconstructive comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>People don't want to be involved with DCFS.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Too many rules in L.A.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The system is not prepared for families.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>They mix cultures and that is a problem.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Not enough Black social workers – all Latino.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>There are still orphanages.</i></li> </ul> | <b>75%</b>            |
| <p><i>Safety reference</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Even with surveillance, parents want their children safe.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>19%</b>            |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Something bad happened, now we must keep the child safe.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Soon as they (children) are identified as foster children, that's when the negative begins.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                        |                                 |
| Reference to Child                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>6%</b><br><b>(very few)</b>  |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>There is no need to judge children.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25%                             |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Even when kids get into a good family, there is still history and background – it's huge and daunting.</i></li> <li>○ <i>They (children) have a stigma – even for younger families.</i></li> <li>○ <i>People think African American children come with problems.</i></li> </ul> | 75%                             |
| Perception of Family/Parents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>10%</b><br><b>(very few)</b> |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Parenting is difficult, we have to acknowledge that – have classes</i></li> <li>○ <i>I want to remain optimistic (about parents).</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      | 43%                             |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Birth families can interfere.</i></li> <li>○ <i>I've seen families not in it for the kids – the get as many kids as they can in the house for money.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                             | 57%                             |
| Own Experience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>13%</b><br><b>(very few)</b> |
| <p><i>Positive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>My mom provided (good) care.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 78%                             |
| <p><i>Unconstructive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>I know a child living with his grandfather who has Parkinson's; the situation is not good.</i></li> <li>○ <i>In my community, when you say you need help, it's all good until you actually have to bring someone into your home.</i></li> </ul>                                 | 22%                             |
| Does not answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2%                              |

- *We need to talk about Black female mortality rates, too.*

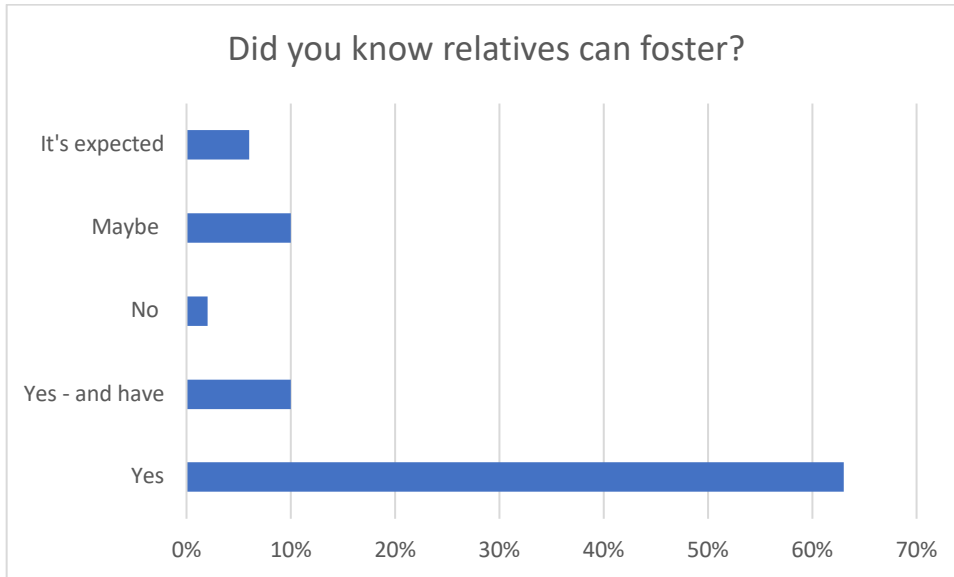


**Prevalent theme of systems:** don't want to get involved with DCFS, problems in L.A., rules make it difficult to become a foster parent, system rips families apart, lots of issues with mixed cultures, people are struggling, it is a flawed system, systems are overwhelmed, especially for Black communities.

**Did you know that relatives can foster their own relatives? What are your opinions on this? Did you know this?**

|                                             |                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Own Experience                              | <b>40%</b><br><b>(many)</b> |
| <i>Positive</i>                             | 40%                         |
| <i>Unconstructive</i>                       | 42%                         |
| <i>Informative</i>                          | 18%                         |
| Reference to Family                         | <b>24%</b><br><b>(some)</b> |
| <i>Positive - General</i>                   | 5%                          |
| <i>Negative - General</i>                   | 10%                         |
| <i>Already Doing Kinship Care</i>           | 10%                         |
| <i>Yes, But Family Needs to be Assessed</i> | 30%                         |

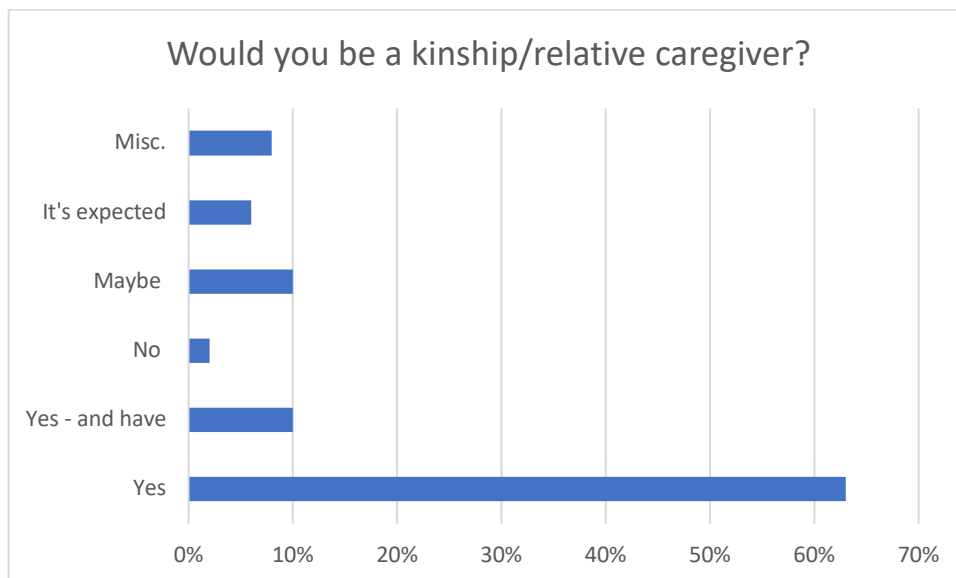
|                                                             |                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Concern for child in Kin Care</i>                        | 15%                            |
| <i>It Is a Family Obligation</i>                            | 30%                            |
| System Reference                                            | <b>23%</b><br><b>(some)</b>    |
| <i>Courts</i>                                               | 11%                            |
| <i>Grandparent Support</i>                                  | 11%                            |
| <i>Foster Care Comparison</i>                               | 11%                            |
| <i>Mental Health</i>                                        | 11%                            |
| <i>Education on Services/<br/>understanding of services</i> | 16%                            |
| <i>DCFS (negative reference)</i>                            | 21%                            |
| <i>Lack of Resources</i>                                    | 16%                            |
| <i>Prevention Programming</i>                               | 3%                             |
| Knowledge of Kinship Care                                   | <b>9%</b><br><b>(very few)</b> |
| <i>High</i>                                                 | 43%                            |
| <i>Low</i>                                                  | 43%                            |
| <i>Aware</i>                                                | 14%                            |
| Unrelated                                                   | <b>4%</b>                      |



**Prevalent theme of systems:** the system should, the system needs to, the county doesn't, judges don't, social workers need to respond, the system doesn't explain the process, the system sends to grandparents without support, the system is not kind to kin.

**Follow-up: If your niece/nephew, granddaughter/grandson, God Child, needed to be fostered, would you consider this?**

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Yes           | 63% (most)        |
| Yes, and Have | 10%<br>(very few) |
| No            | 2%<br>(very few)  |
| Maybe         | 10%<br>(very few) |
| It's Expected | 6%<br>(very few)  |
| Misc.         | 8%<br>(very few)  |

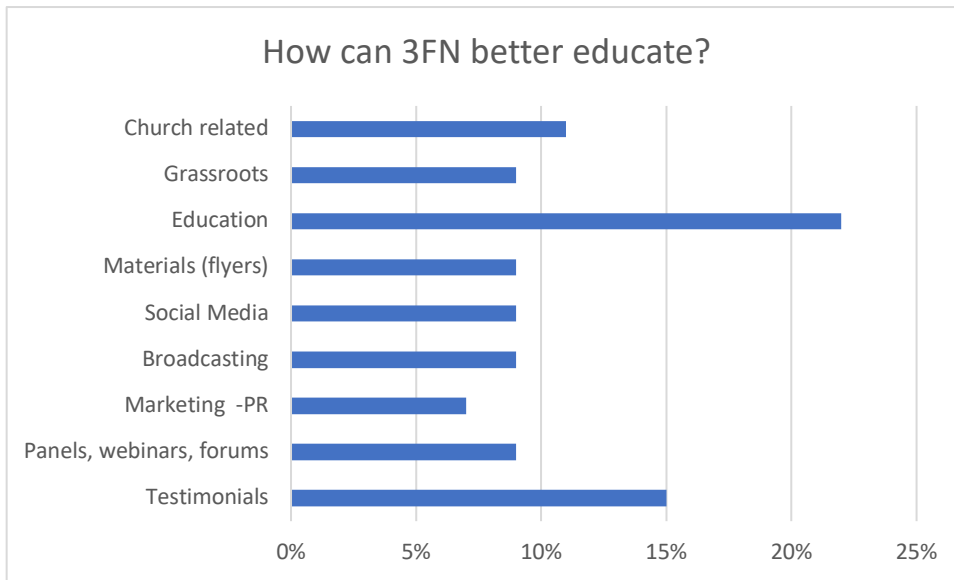


**In what ways can 3FN better educate your community on child welfare/foster care?**

There were a wide range of answers, the following are the most often repeated.

|                                                      |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Learn from previous experience, testimonials         | 15%<br>(some)    |
| Panels, Forums, Webinars                             | 9%<br>(very few) |
| Marketing and PR                                     | 7%<br>(very few) |
| Broadcasting and Podcasts                            | 9%<br>(very few) |
| Social Media                                         | 9%<br>(very few) |
| Material Collateral – pamphlets, literature, signage | 9%<br>(very few) |
| Education in General                                 | 22%<br>(some)    |
| Community Grassroots Networking                      | 9%               |

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
|                | (very few)        |
| Church Related | 11%<br>(very few) |



**Is there anything we did not speak to that you would like us to know?**

**A service:**

- Respite care is needed—learned this from Nancy.
- Community supports are needed before even getting to foster care.
- This (3FN) needs to be part of a network of support; it should align with other organizations.
- Contact Children’s Hospital to make that connection; they can help address the needs of emancipated youth.

**A need:**

- Educate the community on what is at stake.
- In this time of racism, DCFS needs cultural competency training.
- How do we increase funding for prevention?
- What is beneficial from DCFS?
- The system needs to better understand when youth leave the system. How do you ensure their success? They get to the end and then what? The system just drops them and hands them off to society.

**Deep thinking:**

- What does DCFS want relatives to know? They are not forthcoming.
- Things go in cycles – DCFS has “flavors of the month” – right now it’s cultural diversity.



- We can't compromise on cultural competency. It impacts how our children and families are served.
- We are not similar to other parts of the community; our culture in context can't be taken for granted.
- I like that 3FN is being more intentional.
- Foster care is stranger care; kinship care is a lot different.
- Not sure what community means. Black community, L.A.?
- What brings family and youth into the system? Forget about foster care.
- This (the work of 3FN) is an important undertaking.
- This (the work of 3FN) will keep the community plugged in.
- We forget the role of child welfare in the community.
- Over 100 kids each month are emancipated from foster care; 50% are youth of color.

## The Post Survey

A post survey was administered at the end of the focus group sessions to compliment the focus group data (Appendix A). The responses aligned with the focus group conversations, in particular in how they reinforced the answer to the question, **“Is there anything we did not speak to that you would like us to know?”**

## Discussion

All decision-making typically follows a process. There are in fact many models of decision-making, which all typically begin with first identifying that a decision must be made. Before arriving at a final decision, most models consider such steps as the identification of alternatives to the decision, weighing information and seeking evidence. These models are most often applied to personal decision-making. When considering the selection of services or a purchase, three areas precede the decision-making stage and are applicable here when looking at foster care recruitment. They are awareness, consideration and intent/motivation.

### 1. Awareness

People must be cognizant of a need or want. The qualitative data in this report clearly indicates that many participants were not aware of:

1. The need for foster parents.
2. The community's role in foster care.
3. Accurate information about foster care.
4. The role of kinship care in the foster care system.

Without awareness, there can be no realization that there are providers and avenues to make a consideration on becoming a foster parent. During the focus groups, those with the greatest amount of awareness were those who work in the system, have fostered and/or adopted, or were alumni of foster care.

For those who are aware, the degree of familiarity would be contemplated. To what extent is that familiarity vicarious or direct? Will this familiarity dismiss moving on to the stage of consideration?

## **2. Consideration**

Consideration involves an evaluation of meeting a need or request. Again, there must be awareness and a level of education for something to be considered. In the case of foster care recruitment, there must be recognition that there is a need and what that specific need is. We equip people in the awareness stage to consider becoming a foster parent or kinship caregiver. In the consideration stage of foster care, the focus group data revealed considerations outside of foster parenting, such as:

1. Consideration in addressing the needs of children.
2. Consideration in nurturing children “in need.”
3. Consideration in addressing the needs of families.
4. Consideration in addressing the needs of the parents.
5. Consideration in addressing community needs.
6. Consideration in addressing race equity issues.
7. Consideration due to self-identification with the child in care.

Consideration will have an impact on the intent (i.e., a person’s motivation to consider becoming a foster parent or kinship caregiver).

## **3. Intent (Motivation)**

It is logical to consider the motivation that undergirds a decision in the consideration of becoming a foster parent. While altruism or social conscience would be considered an appropriate motivator, the desire to gain income may be seen as inappropriate. The focus group data primarily addressed social-conscience issues regarding race equity, lack of supports, system surveillance of families and the definition of community. What would be considered inappropriate motivations were also presented, but with less frequency. This predominantly included income supplementation. Importantly, there was also conversation about what would motivate someone to not consider fostering. The rationale here was about the behavior and “baggage” of the children and the involvement of the birth parents.

## **4. Decision**

The three previous stages suggest that there is an integration of logic and emotion in deciding to consider fostering. The decision is greatly influenced by the motivation. If one’s motivation is to be active in the community, one may decide to volunteer at an afterschool program as opposed to fostering. In kinship care, one may make the decision to provide respite for a child’s kinship caregiver as opposed to being the primary caregiver. Importantly, there are external factors that can also influence the decision aside from motivation (i.e., disruptors to the decision). In the focus groups, some of these disruptors included:

- Hearing about negative experiences with DCFS.
- Hearing about the negative experiences of current or past foster parents.

- Influence of family and friends to stay “out of the system.”
- Perception of limited supports.
- Engagement with outside agents, such as community providers, the faith community and systems like education and criminal justice.

## The Cycle

Awareness, consideration and decision need not be thought of as merely a linear process. The journey to becoming a foster parent would be more circular, where a change of awareness may change the consideration. The potential foster parent may even research on their own to increase awareness; this is why most child welfare jurisdictions communicate the process and requirements on their websites. It is a way they conduct “fairs” to increase awareness. Every effort must be made to keep a potential foster parent active in the process. It must be considered as an active learning process.

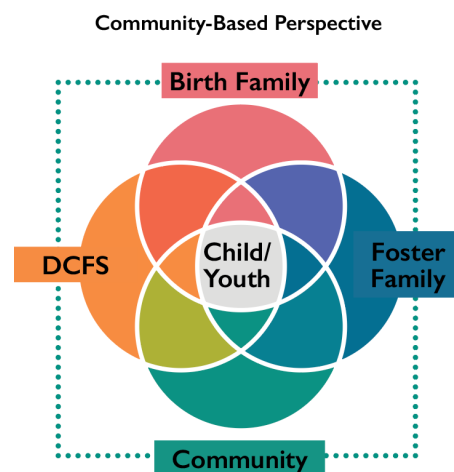
## Recommendations

Impact does not occur in isolation. A child welfare response insulated from the community fails to acknowledge how the complexity of relationships actually strengthen and advance a culturally and racially competent response that favors and empowers families. As 3FN establishes its role in the community, there are opportunities that can establish the organization as a backbone support organization, an important function in a collective impact model that speaks to the necessity of an organization to bind the infrastructure of a collective impact approach.

Impact occurs within various systems and is strategic. Noting that systems are designed for particular outcomes, there must be system reform in SPA 6 in order to eliminate the racial disparity of African American children in care. Each recommendation should have specific goals and objectives with data-driven outcomes. Baseline data is required to establish benchmarks.

Suggested data points include:

- ZIP code analysis in SPA 6 to include child welfare data points, such as number of children in care, those in traditional foster homes, those in kinship/relative homes, CPS investigations, etc.
- Wellness indicators, such as poverty rates, high-school graduation rates, teen pregnancy, etc.



### An Integrated Framework of Foster Care

- There are five stakeholders, with the child/youth at the center.
- Each stakeholder provides a perspective on care.
- Each perspective facilitates a pathway for reunification or another form of permanency.

*While pathways should intersect, they should not block or inhibit pathways of other stakeholders.*

*Figure 1: Community-based perspective on stakeholders in child welfare*

*Background: While Black youth make up a little more than 7 percent of the county's child population, they account for more than 24 percent of the youth receiving services from DCFS, according to the department. White and Asian youth are underrepresented in the system compared to the overall child population; about 60 percent of L.A. youth are Hispanic, and they make up approximately the same proportion of youth in care.*

- 1) Create a specific community-informed plan that addresses a more precise role, and the expectation of that role, in recruiting foster parents in association with DCFS.
- 2) Further define the role of 3FN in each of these particular contexts:
  - a) DCFS
    - i) Take on the defined role as a community liaison. This would be inclusive of a *ZIP Code Partner* attending the quarterly Regional Managers Meetings.
      - (a) *ZIP Code Partner* defined as a community representative from SPA 6 where a particular neighborhood (ZIP code) is overly represented in child welfare.
    - ii) Conduct ZIP code listening sessions and/or town halls so community needs and concerns are authentically voiced at the quarterly Regional Managers Meetings.
  - b) Role with or as a community-based organization (CBO):
    - i) 3FN working in a defined relationship with an existing SPA CBO providing RHAS service and/or consideration of 3FN becoming a CBO.
      - (a) Per DCFS Policy:
        - (i) *DCFS contracts with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), which are Relative Home Assessment Services (RHAS) providers, to assist relatives/NREFMs with the RFA process.*
        - (ii) *Relatives/NREFMs will be assigned to CBOs based on their Service Planning Area (SPA) location.*
        - (iii) *The RHAS CBO is responsible for:*
          1. *Providing in-home orientation.*
          2. *Completing the preliminary home environment assessment.*

### Community-Informed Plan

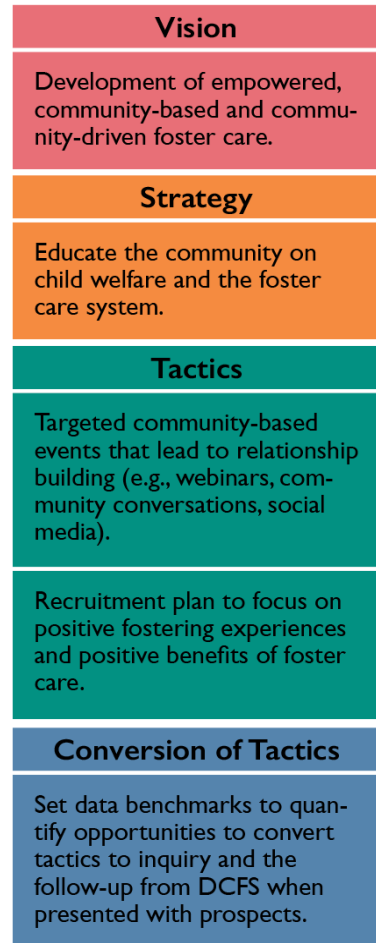


Figure 2: Example of a strategic plan for 3FN

3. *Providing pre-approval (and post-approval) training for the first year the family is approved.*
  4. *Assisting with obtaining documents required for the RFA process.*
  5. *Assisting in developing Documented Alternative Plans (DAPs).*
  6. *Providing access for basic needs and tangible support.*
- c) Provider of aftercare services for families leaving the system.
  - d) Provider of respite care.
  - e) Conduct approved parenting classes as required in Parent Plan.
- 3) Community Advocacy
- a) Facilitate monthly ZIP code-based meetings with identified stakeholders in family well-being. Representative of:
    - i) Faith groups;
    - ii) Community groups;
    - iii) Education;
    - iv) Legal;
    - v) Health care;
    - vi) DCFS;
    - vii) Other identified ZIP code-specific stakeholders.
  - b) Set up a hotline or warmline for questions and resources pertaining to kinship care, traditional foster care and the child welfare system in general; 3FN should leverage its position as a community provider that is not formally a part of the child welfare system.
- 4) Marketing Campaign
- a) Initiate ZIP code-driven campaigns to educate the community about the system as part of a plan to increase foster parent recruitment.
    - i) Visual campaign (e.g., billboards, buses)
    - ii) Digital campaign (e.g., social media)
    - iii) PSAs
- 5) DCFS Professional-Development Series
- a) Educate the system about the community they serve.

## **Conclusion**

The focus groups provided an insight into how an awareness of foster care and child welfare impacts foster (resource) parent recruitment. As awareness proceeds engagement, 3FN is confronted with a situation that involves community education as a first step in addressing recruitment needs. While no direct questions concerning race were asked, race equity was frequently highlighted. This is important, as the recruiting of both kin/relative and traditional foster parents is not conducted in a vacuum; it is part of a larger system-reform conversation. Multiple factors intersect when someone is deciding to become a kinship or traditional foster parent, thus, a simple recruitment plan should be challenged. 3FN is taking on this challenge by addressing recruitment and retention from multiple perspectives. It is operating as an agent of change and in doing so, is also an agent of reform in utilizing the strengths and heritage of African American families to make an impact in the community.

## Appendix A

Please make any last comments that you would like to add to today's ... ...

Selected: 47

Do you think your organization can talk to Social Workers to see if they can help more parents keep the children with more resources that will help and try hard to help the parents that just need an extra push.

It was outstanding. The diversity of backgrounds and opinions was essential.

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a voice to raise awareness.

NONE

Thank you

Thanks! I learned a lot.

Thank you for including me in this focus group.

Great discussion

Very informative

This was very enlightening

It easy great 👍😊

I enjoyed participating, thank you!

Like this group

Good discussion and very informative

Thanks for allowing me to participate in this focus group. This session was interesting, informative and very well organized and facilitated. I do think 3FN can get more information out to the churches and community through radio announcements, bulletin notices, and social media, to heighten awareness and provide education to the community on the condition of the foster system, before and after tragedy. All families need to become aware, open, honest, and vulnerable around this concern if there is an expectation for things to change.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this event. God bless you for your continued work and efforts for our children.

3FN Focus Group 2020

🔍 (0)

I'm amazed how you are coming together to assist. My question is about children being fostered in same sex homes? Is there a group that the children can learn a neutral lifestyle? Some weekly programs for the Foster children

My heart continues to break when I think about children who are not with their parents. Maybe I would be better connecting or working with the parents.

The focus group was very enlightening. There is a great need in our community and it is time for us as a group to come together to help the next generation.

I really appreciated being able to share my experience. I thought the focus group went well.

The discussion was very impactful.

This has been a pleasure to participate

Well organized.

Looking forward to next steps

3FN Focus Group 2020

🔍 (0)



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This was a very enlightening session. I have learned so much I did not know about fostering.

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3FN Focus Group 2020

🔍 (0)

Great discussion!

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Ministry to foster youth, children, families and villages is complex and vital. As I continue to launch #StrengtheningTheBlackVillage, My prayer is that we work together and strengthen one another and perhaps SBV might even be considered one of the Ministries under the umbrella of 3FN. We must collectively do a better job of advocating for and loving homeless and Foster youth as a faith community Connecting churches, faith agencies and community agencies as you already do. I look forward to being instrumental in us doing an even greater job in these areas. I've heard more about this network in the past year than cumulatively in the year years past, so keep up the great work. Thank you!

---

Thank you for starting the conversation. We should establish a resource system like the Big Brothers /Big Sisters Organization

---

i'm interested in supporting the idea of producing content that speaks to changing the perceptions of foster care and building a positive image of it

---

Very good discussion. I know that Nancy has had several outreach events and now because of Covid even more need to be had. Also promoting other ways a person can help/support besides being an actual foster parent. Perhaps supporting in an auxiliary capacity.

---

I'm amazed how you are coming together to assist. My question is about children being fostered in same sex homes? Is there a group that the children can learn a neutral lifestyle? Some weekly programs for the

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🔍 (0)

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Thank you!

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I applaud you for all the work that you are doing. I've asked several times to be allowed to work with foster students in their senior year, but never heard back. Maybe you don't have any students in their senior year?

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Thank you for doing for the kids :)

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I just recommend to being persistent in being a resource and providing information to the community. Share and show the different faces of foster parents.

---

One thing I didn't have an opportunity to mention was the concern on the processes for vetting families. How well backgrounds are actually checked? I realize that sometimes it is an emergency situation and things have to happen quickly and children are not placed in a great environment.

---

Prior to inviting people to a meeting or to participate in focus group let it stop there not automatically assume they are going to be a part of your posse, but give them time to side because this is a huge undertaking where you want people to be their for the long run so give them time to decide.

---

Do PSAs featuring people who are part of the system

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I was very impressed with the discussion and especially enjoyed the participation of the young people.

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Thank you so much for organizing this zoom meeting.

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I'm a member of the Inglewood chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, and if you are interested in partnering I am happy to be a resource.

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Will look forward for more info

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Keep up the good work!!

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Thank you for this! I would be more than happy to continue to participate.

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Very informative.

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Thanks for all you do to support children.

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It was a great discussion. Loved hearing the different opinions and experiences. I hope this helps with future planning in foster care

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3FN Focus Group 2020

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## 3FN Focus Group 2020

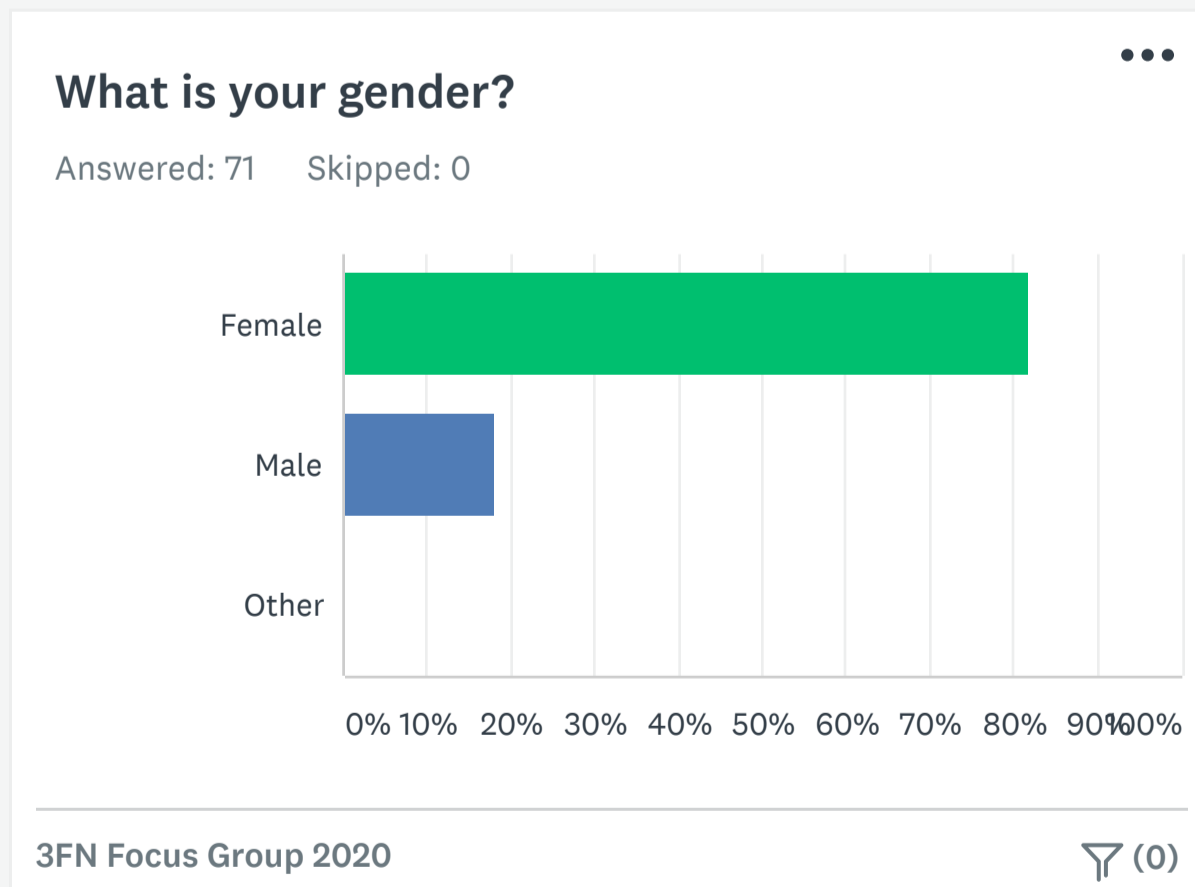
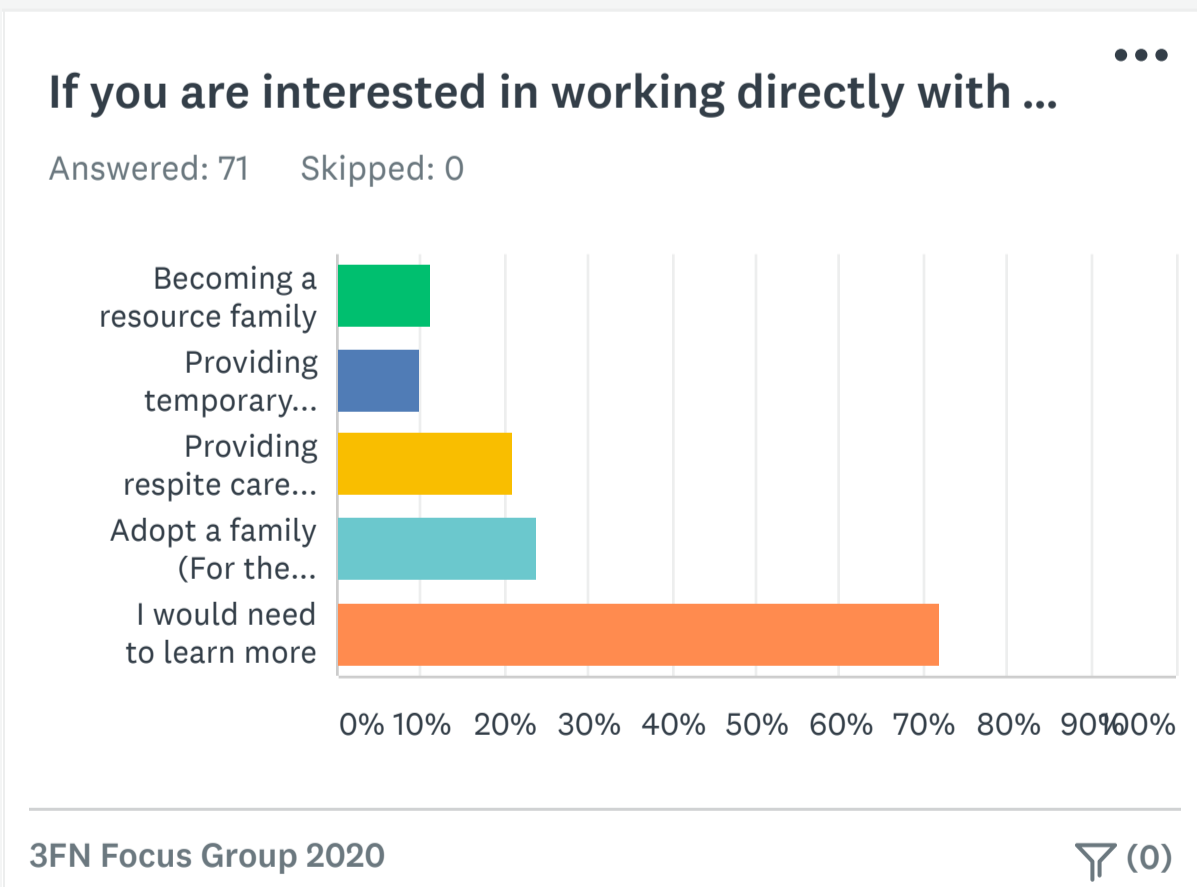
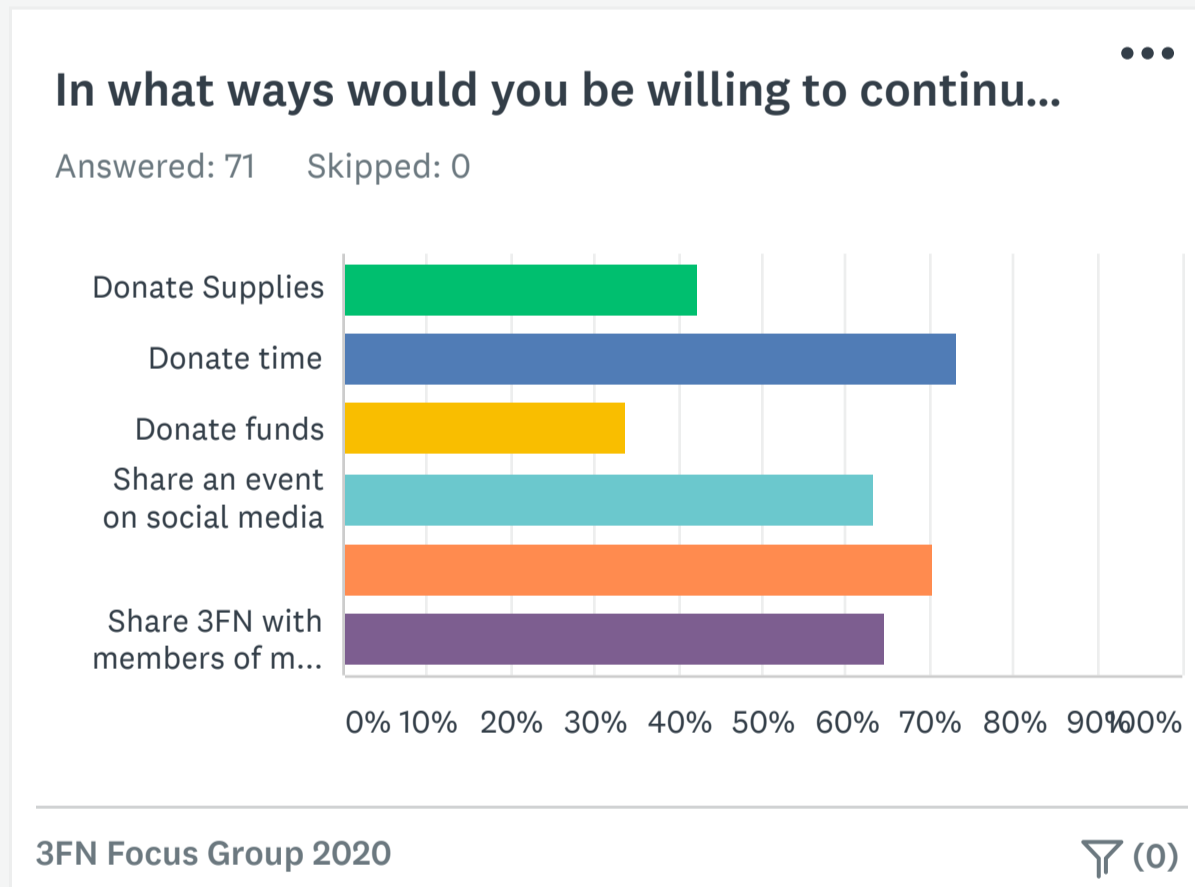
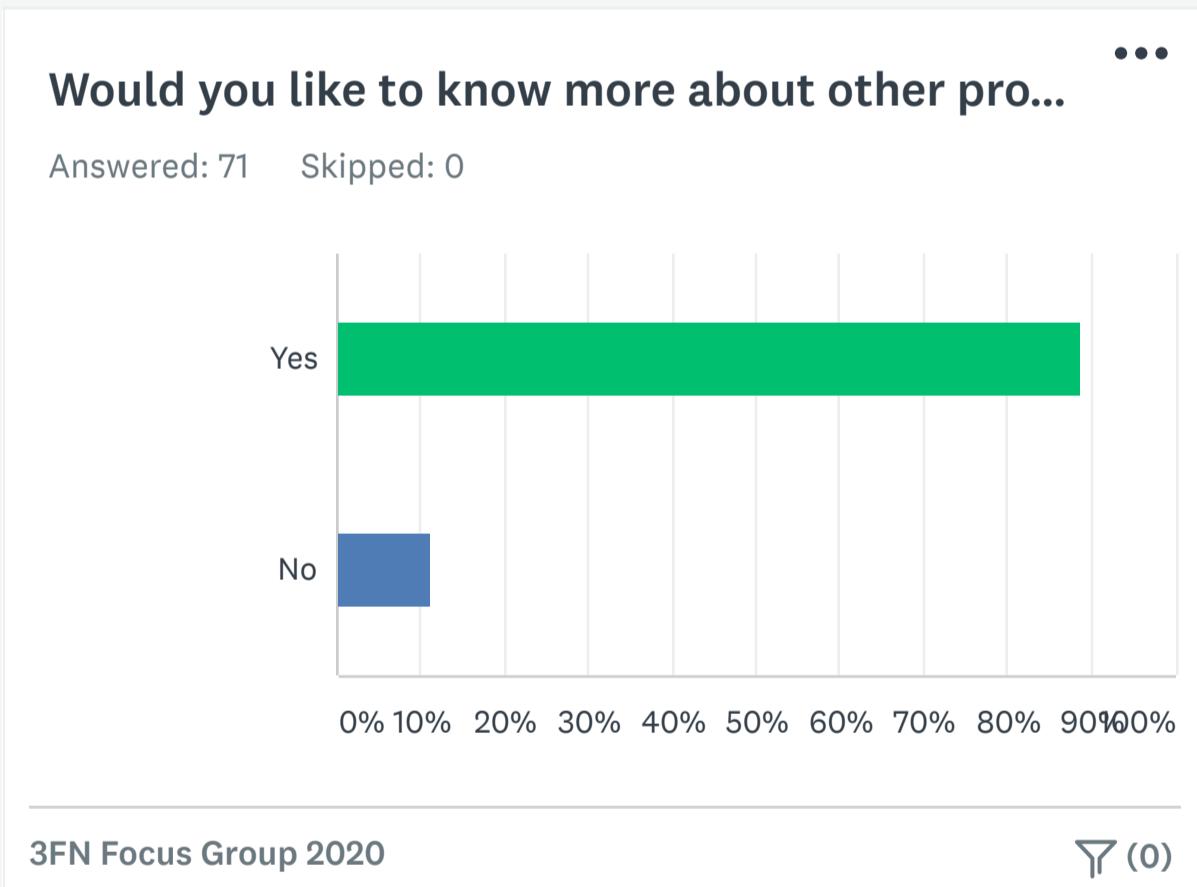
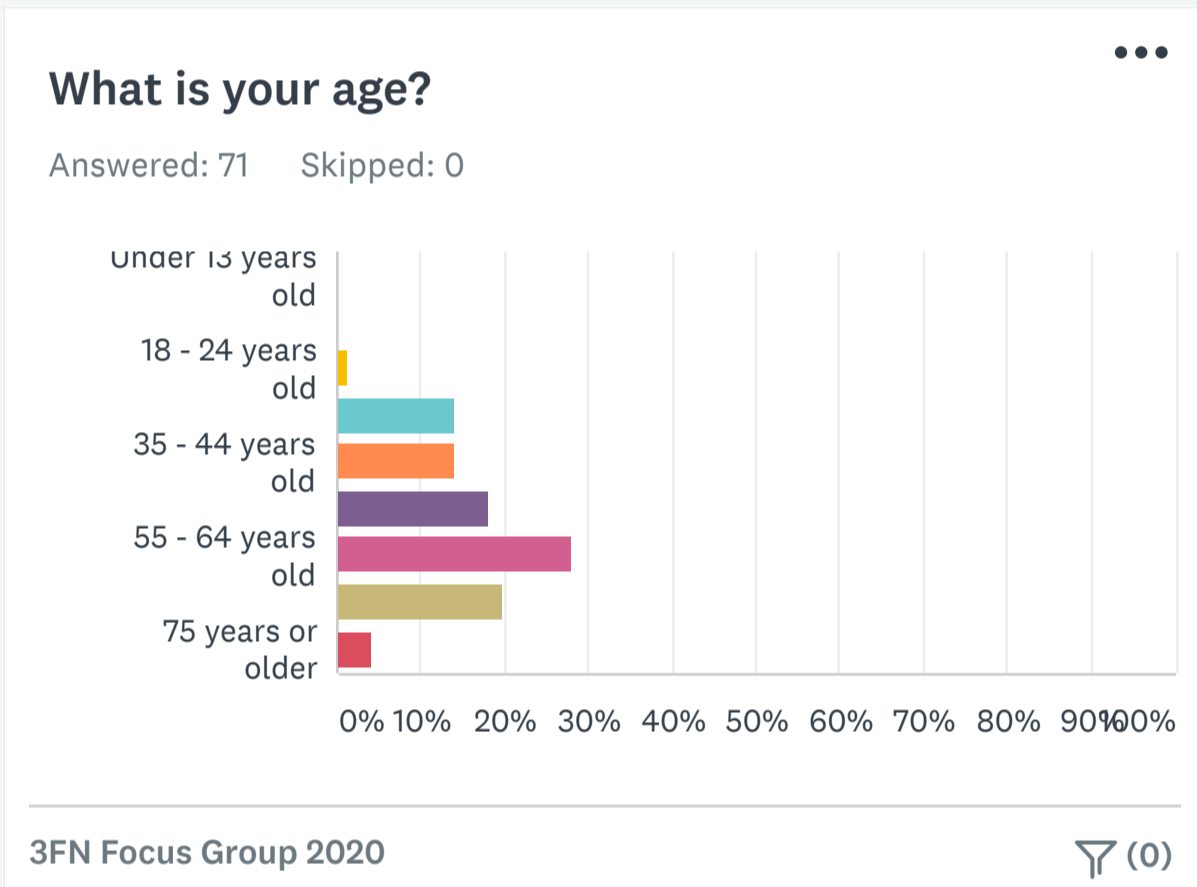
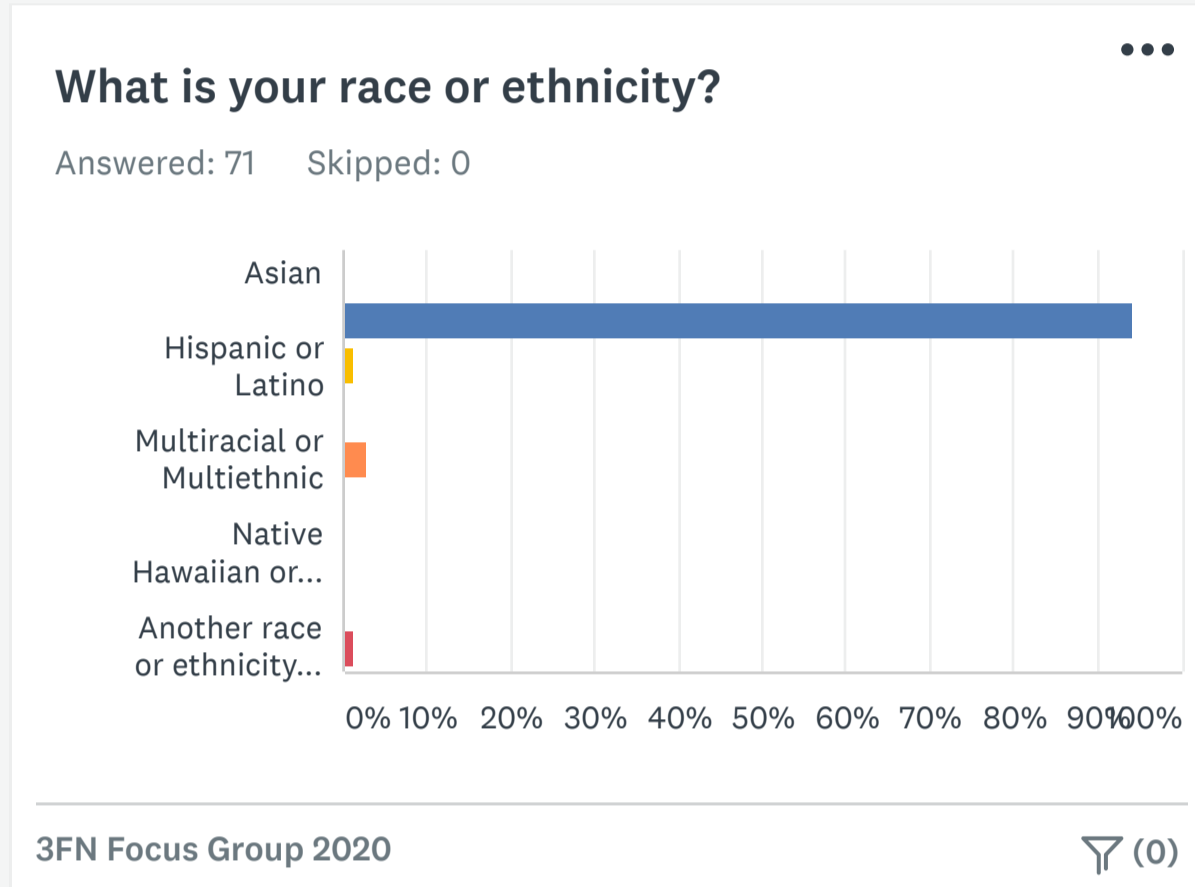
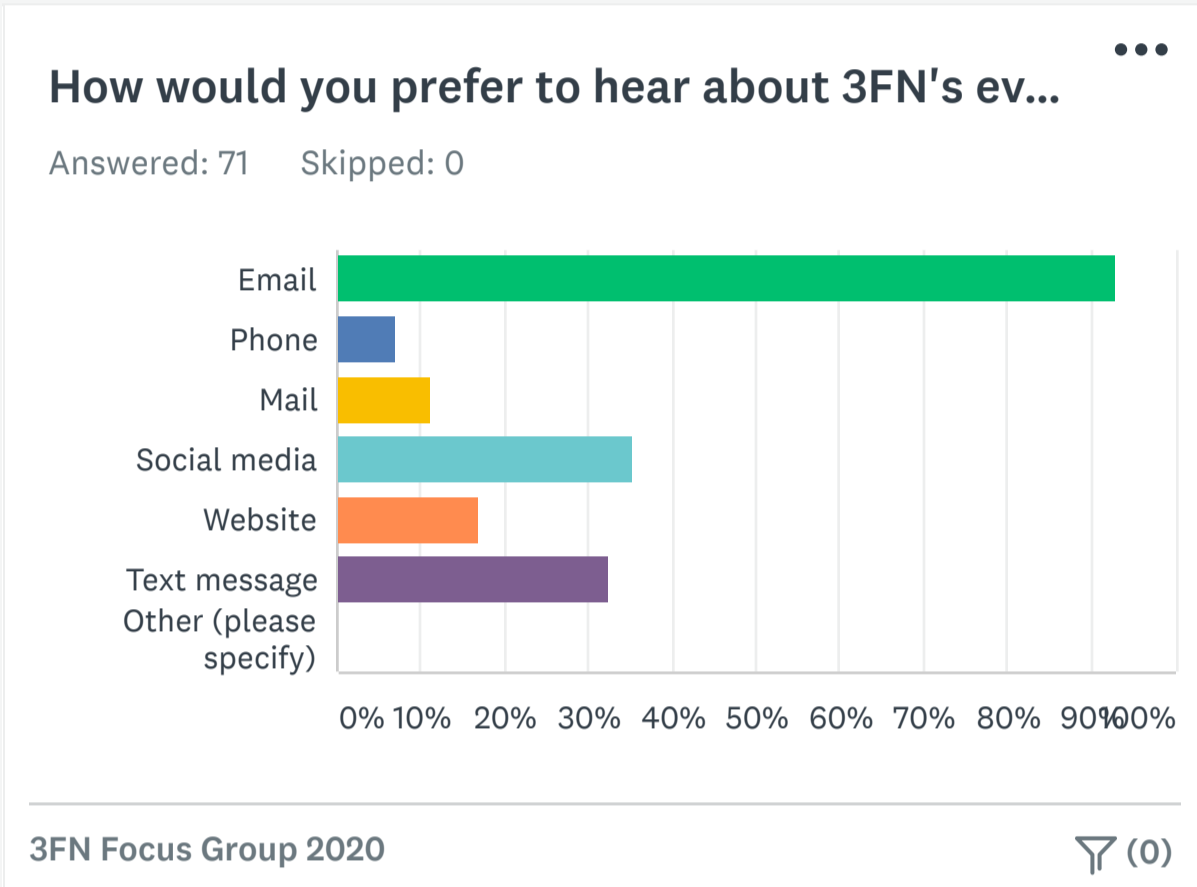
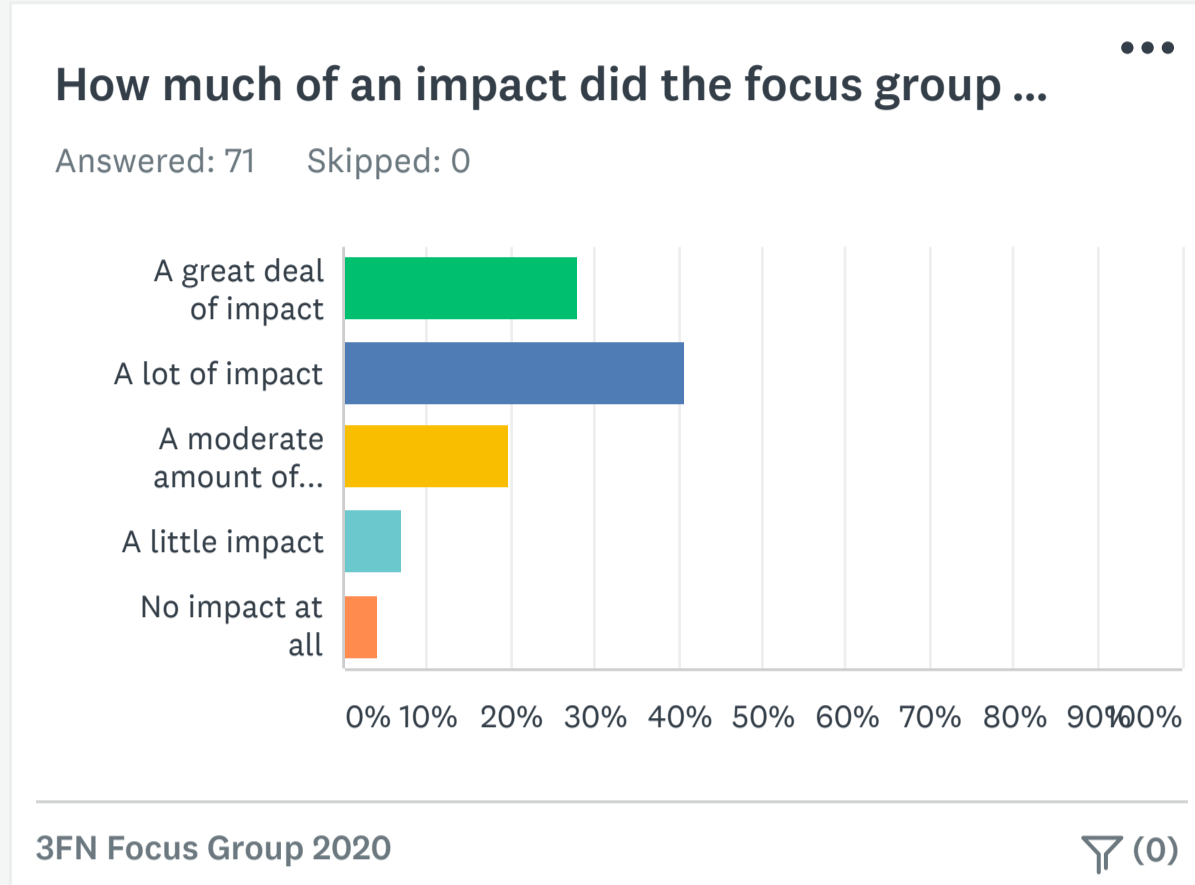
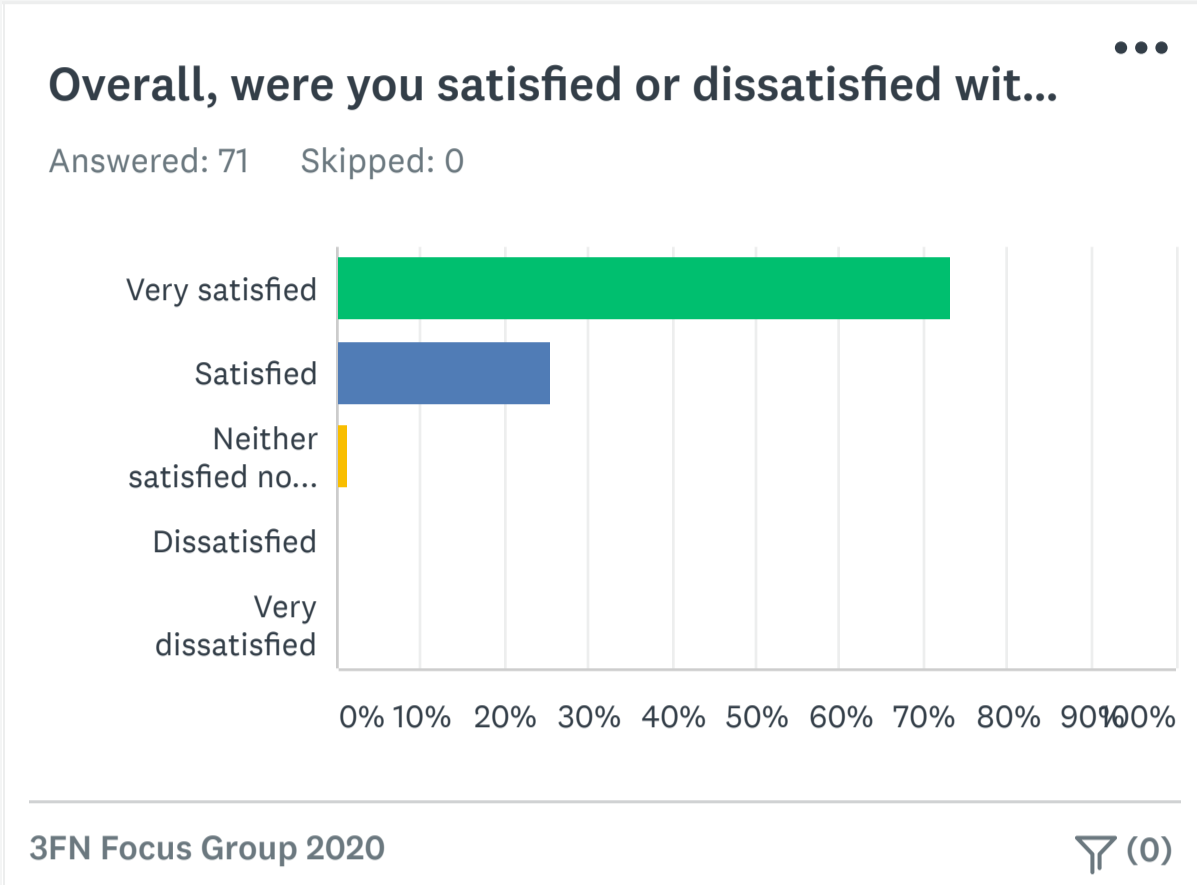
SUMMARY → DESIGN SURVEY → PREVIEW & SCORE → COLLECT RESPONSES → ANALYZE RESULTS → **PRESENT RESULTS**

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## 3FN Focus Group 2020

⊕ SUBTITLE



### Please make any last comments that you wo...

Answered: 47 Skipped: 24

Do you think your organization can talk to Social Workers to see if they can help more parents keep the children with more resources that will help and try hard to help the parents that just need an extra push.

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It was outstanding. The diversity of backgrounds and opinions was essential.

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It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a voice to raise awareness.

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NONE

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Thank you

3FN Focus Group 2020

